

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION**

Robert Mayo,

Case No.:

Plaintiff,

v.

**COMPLAINT
WITH JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

American Honda Finance Corporation,

Defendant.

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This action for damages is based on Defendant's frequent and unauthorized calls to Plaintiff's cellular telephone to collect a purported consumer debt. Plaintiff seeks monetary relief based on Defendant's violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act ("TCPA"), 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.*, and the Georgia Fair Business Practices Act ("GFBPA"), O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393, *et seq.*

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff, Robert Mayo, is a natural person who resides in Cherokee County, Georgia.

2. Defendant, American Honda Finance Corporation, is a foreign for-profit corporation headquartered in the State of California and registered to do business in

Georgia. Defendant may be served with process via its registered agent, CT Corporation System, at 1201 Peachtree Street NE, Suite 1240, Atlanta, Georgia 30361.

3. At all relevant times hereto, Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, and/or representatives.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over Plaintiff's TCPA claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3). *See Mims v. Arrow Fin. Serv., LLC*, 132 S. Ct. 740, 753 (2012) (holding federal district courts have federal question jurisdiction over TCPA claims). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because, *inter alia*, Defendant frequently and routinely conducts business in the State of Georgia, including the conduct complained of herein.

6. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, venue is proper in the Northern District of Georgia because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district. Pursuant to LR 3.1B(3), NDGa, venue is proper in the Atlanta Division because the conduct complained of herein occurred in Cherokee County, which is in the Atlanta Division.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

7. Plaintiff is the subscriber for the cellular telephone with the number 770-***-0231 (the “Cell Phone”).

8. In or about April, 2016, Plaintiff began receiving calls on his Cell Phone from Defendant, in which Defendant was seeking a third party unknown to Plaintiff.

9. Upon information and belief, Defendant was placing these calls to Plaintiff’s Cell Phone in an effort to collect an outstanding debt allegedly owed by the third party.

10. Defendant’s calls to Plaintiff were made from phone number 866-950-7780.

11. The phone number set forth in enumeration 10 above is utilized by or under the control of Defendant.

12. Since April 28, 2016, Plaintiff has received at least eleven (11) similar calls.

13. Plaintiff overtly advised Defendant it was calling a wrong number in its attempt to collect a debt.

14. Defendant knew or should have known that it was calling the wrong party in the calls identified above.

15. When he answered calls from Defendant, Plaintiff heard pauses and/or clicks and a delay at the beginning of the calls.

16. Upon information and belief, Defendant used an autodialer and/or predictive dialing equipment to make its calls to Plaintiff.

17. Plaintiff never provided consent for Defendant to call him on his Cell Phone.

18. To the extent Plaintiff provided consent for Defendant to call him on his Cell Phone, Plaintiff explicitly revoked that consent.

19. Subsequent to his revocation of consent, Plaintiff did not provide additional consent for Defendant to contact him.

20. Defendant's calls to Plaintiff had no emergency purpose.

21. Rather, Defendant advised Plaintiff that its calls were for the purpose of debt collection.

22. Plaintiff was unable to avoid or escape Defendant's repetitive calls. Even attempts to "block" the calls still resulted in brief "rings" and other alerts to Plaintiff's Cell Phone.

23. Once Defendant knew that Plaintiff did not wish to be called, there was no purpose for placing additional calls to his Cell Phone other than to annoy, abuse, or otherwise harass Plaintiff.

24. Plaintiff carries his Cell Phone at most times to be accessible to his family, friends, and work-place. Calls from Defendant have interrupted and interfered with Plaintiff's daily life, including activities of daily living, interactions with family and friends, and work activity.

25. Defendant's campaign of harassing phone calls has caused Plaintiff actual damages, including, but not limited to, the consumption of "minutes" as contemplated in his cellular service plan that has the end result of Plaintiff paying for the calls initiated by Defendant, depletion of Plaintiff's battery life resulting in diminished preferred usage by Plaintiff, emotional distress—including frustration and aggravation—in managing the persistent calls, and expenses associated with seeking to enforce Defendant's compliance with the law.

TRIAL BY JURY

26. Plaintiff is entitled to and hereby requests a trial by jury.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

**VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT
47 U.S.C. § 227**

27. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 25 as though fully stated herein.

28. Defendant violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) by making repeated phone calls to Plaintiff's Cell Phone, without permission or emergency purpose, and using an autodialer and/or predictive dialing equipment.

29. As a result of Defendant's violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii), Plaintiff is entitled to recover a minimum of \$500.00 for each call in violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

30. Defendant knew that it did not have Plaintiff's consent to receive its calls at all. Its repeated calls were, therefore, knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA.

31. Accordingly, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C), Defendant's knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA entitles Plaintiff to triple the amount of damages to which Plaintiff is otherwise entitled under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

COUNT II

VIOLATIONS OF THE GEORGIA FAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES ACT O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a)

32. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 25 as though fully stated herein.

33. O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a) broadly prohibits unfair business practices.

34. It was an unfair business practice for Defendant to call Plaintiff's Cell Phone repeatedly, without consent, when it knew or should have known that the number was not that of the third party it was seeking.

35. It was an unfair business practice for Defendant to repeatedly call Plaintiff's Cell Phone in an attempt to collect a debt allegedly owed by a third party.

36. It was an unfair business practice for Defendant to continue to contact Plaintiff after he requested that Defendant stop contacting him.

37. Defendant's actions have interfered with Plaintiff's daily life in a manner that he did not invite, disclaimed, and could not reasonably escape.

38. As pled above, Plaintiff was harmed by Defendant's unfair conduct.

39. Defendant's conduct amounts to an unfair business practice.

40. Defendant's conduct has implications for the consuming public in general and potential negative impact on the consumer marketplace.

41. Plaintiff sent a written demand for relief to Defendant more than 30 days prior to filing this action, in accordance with O.G.C.A. § 10-1-399 (b), and Defendant responded by denying Plaintiff's request.

42. As a result of Defendant's violations of O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover general damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(a).

43. As a result of Defendant's willful and wanton violations of O.C.G.A. § 10-1-393(a), Plaintiff is entitled to recover exemplary damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(a).

44. Defendant's actions were intentional, rendering it liable for treble damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(c).

45. Plaintiff is entitled to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 10-1-399(d).

46. Furthermore, because Defendant has acted in bad faith, been stubbornly litigious, and/or caused Plaintiff unnecessary trouble and expense, Plaintiff is also entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-6-11.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant for:

- a.) Damages of at least \$500.00 per phone call and treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §§ 227(b)(3)(B) & (C);
- b.) Actual damages;

- c.) General, exemplary, and treble damages pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 10-1-399(a) & (c);
- d.) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 10-1-399(d) and/or 13-6-11; and
- e.) Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted, this 18th day of July, 2016.

BERRY & ASSOCIATES

/s/ Matthew T. Berry

Matthew T. Berry

Georgia Bar No.: 055663

matt@mattberry.com

Paul J. Sieg

Georgia Bar No.: 334182

psieg@mattberry.com

2751 Buford Highway, Suite 600

Atlanta, GA 30324

Ph. (404) 235-3334

Fax (404) 235-3333

Plaintiff's Attorneys